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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

Forest Utilization Centre (NIR/77/005)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	January 1979
Starting date of project operations:	November 1978 (Under an advance authorization)
Planned completion date:	October 1980
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Federal Department of Forestry
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$547 700
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Sawmilling is the major forestry industry in Nigeria carried out by well over six hundred sawmills. Its main features are the predominance of small sawmills of very low efficiency due to lack of capital, technical expertise and trained manpower.

2. To make more efficient use of its existing wood supplies and increase the returns to the domestic economy by increasing the efficiency of sawmilling operations, systematic training for sawmilling and maintenance procedures is required.

3. To increase the skills available to the sawmilling industry, the Government instituted research and vocational and trade training. Research into various aspects of wood utilization including air and kiln seasoning, preservation and mechanical wood processing is carried out by the Federal Institute for Forestry Research, Ibadan.

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*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 of more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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